

February 16, 2016

Testimonial of Colleen Alleyne

Family School Connection

70 Maynard Street

Middletown CT, 06457

My name is Colleen Alleyne and I have been a home visitor for Family School Connection in Middletown at Bielefeld Elementary School for 3 years. All families I currently work with are single parent homes who are voluntarily getting support and services through Family School Connection (FSC). Many of my families are struggling with basic needs of everyday life as well as having school age children who are having difficulties with academics and behavior issues. Many of the families I started with initially struggled with high absenteeism and truancy issues. All of these families that I have worked with over the last 3 years have worked hard to get their children to school ready to learn and therefore, their issues with absenteeism have improved. My families have struggled with these issues much less because FSC has been a support for them and continues to help our families find resources in order for parents to be able to go to work to support their children to send their kids to school and to not worry about who will get my child off the bus or who will take care of my child while they are working.

At the beginning of the school year, I began working with a mom who suffered a traumatic brain injury. The mother has been waiting to receive a clean bill of health from her doctor and hopefully this will come soon. In the meantime mom sought out Family School Connection to help with her 4th grade daughter. The mom was worried about her daughter's emotional well-being as well as academic concerns. I was able to help mom get the emotional support she needed for her daughter as well as giving mom the tools she needed help her daughters reading to improve. Furthermore, mom's injury has affected her ability to remember things and stay organized, which in turn caused a lot of frustration and turmoil amongst everyone in the home. I have been working with mom on rebuilding these skills since her traumatic brain injury so that she can continue to support her child at home as well as in school. We have set up homework routines and I have provided mom with the skills she needs to help her child with work even when she feels overwhelmed. This has helped ease a lot of mom's frustrations and therefore creating a happy home and happy child. Since I started working with mom she has become engaged with the school, her daughter's academics, and has been regularly volunteering in the school.

Family School Connection at Bielefeld Elementary School has a strong presence and gives our teachers, and school staff the support they need to continually engage our families. If it is decided that FSC will be eliminated it will be a struggle for the staff and teachers to keep our families engaged.

FSC Supervisors and Home visitors are now trained and certified to be Triple P providers. Triple P stands for positive parenting Program. It is a evidence based program and one of the most successful parenting programs in the world. This is one more tool the home visitors can use to keep families engaged.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Cain- Alleyne